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Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JIM WEBB, a Senator from the State of Virginia.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, we are gratefully aware that You are the giver of every good and perfect gift. We are further aware of our own unworthiness of Your goodness.

As our Senators labor today, make them extensions of Your power in our world. May they arrange their priorities according to Your will and view their challenges from an ethical perspective. Lord, use our lawmakers to bring relief to the suffering and to work for greater peace in our world. Help them to walk in Your way, that You may prolong their days and prosper their work. Give them the wisdom to be worthy of respect, self-controlled, and willing to endure. Sustain them in their challenging moments by renewing their faith in You.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JIM WEBB led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, November 5, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JIM WEBB, a Senator from the State of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WEBB thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 3 p.m. Senators are allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each. Then, at 3 p.m. today, the Senate will proceed to the farm bill. Once the managers offer the substitute amendment, the bill will be up for debate only for the remainder of today's session. That is the previous order that was entered by the Chair. As I previously announced, there will be no rollcall votes today as a result of what we were able to accomplish last week.

On Tuesday, the House is expected to vote on overriding the President's veto of the water resources bill, which is a very bipartisan bill which passed overwhelmingly both in the House and the Senate. I anticipate the Senate will debate that veto message sometime this week, and a vote on overriding could be as early as Wednesday.

I would remind Members that the President of France will address a joint meeting of Congress Wednesday morning at 11 a.m.

Also this week, the Senate has a lot of other work to do. I have had a lengthy conversation, just a few min-

utes ago, with the Republican leader. He is aware of the many obligations we have, and it is going to be difficult to get our work done this week. We can get it done, but the reason I mention this, I know Veterans Day is coming and people have a very busy schedule Saturday, Sunday, and Monday. I know I do, and I am sure, like everyone else, they also are obligated. But there are certain things we have to finish. We are going to be out of here for the Thanksgiving recess to go back to our States, to our families, but there is work that obligates us to stay until we finish, and we only have this week and next week to do that.

APPROPRIATIONS

This week, we will receive the conference report for the Veterans and Labor, Health, and Education appropriations bill. This legislation was again supported on a bipartisan basis. It provides the greatest funding increase ever to care for our troops and veterans, who have sacrificed so much for our country. It repairs the woeful conditions we have seen at Walter Reed and at other medical centers. It helps reduce the logjam that is keeping thousands of veterans from receiving health care because the VA has been underfunded during the Bush years.

This bill makes critical investments in America's children and substantially increases the Federal financial commitment to medical research for a multitude of diseases, which the Bush budget goes backward on rather than increasing.

This legislation passed the Senate overwhelmingly because they are good priorities for America. Unfortunately, the President has said he is going to veto this bill. That is unfortunate because this is the same President who has underfunded and shortchanged our troops, our veterans, and other domestic priorities here at home. He argues this bill costs too much. Yet, in the same breath, he reported last week that there is \$100 billion being spent in

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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